Profile of B.C.'s Transportation Sector

Prepared by Ministry of Skills Development and Labour

July 2004

What is the magnitude of B.C.'s transportation sector?

Canada-US transborder trade

- In 2003, $31.2 billion in goods moved between B.C. and the United States. Of this, $13.4 billion was moved by road through the Pacific Highway border crossing. *(Source: Transport Canada)*

Intraprovincial trade

- In 1999, $176 billion in goods & services were moved within B.C. -- 55% of went by road. *(Source: Transport Canada)*

•Interprovincial trade

- In 2003, $29.9 billion in goods and services moved into B.C. from other provinces, and $20.2 B in goods and services moved out of B.C. to other provinces. *(Source: BC Stats)*

How big is B.C.'s transportation sector?

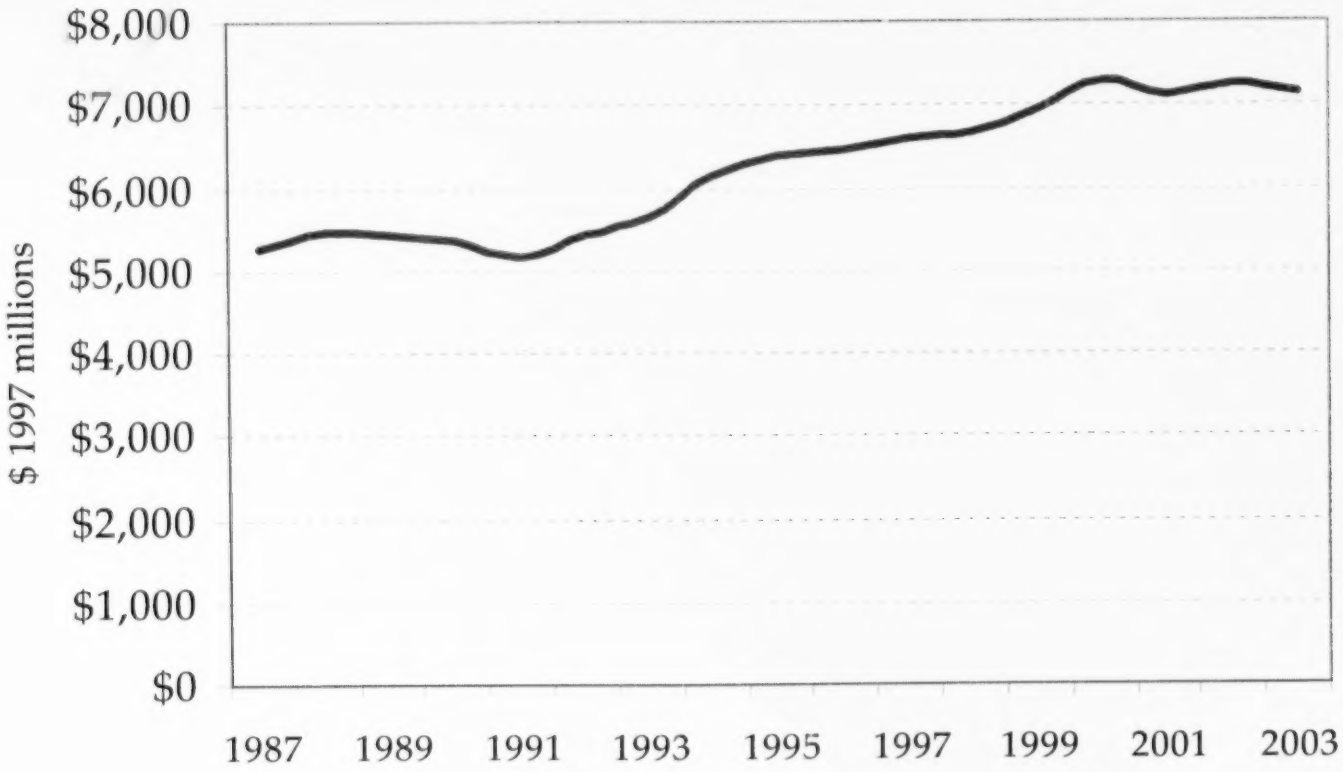
- **In 2003:**
  - 66.7 million tonnes of cargo was handled at the Port of Vancouver, up 6.2% from last year.
  - 953,000 cruise ship passengers went through Vancouver, down 15% from 2002.
  - 14,321,500 passengers moved through Vancouver International Airport.
  - 21.6 million passengers and 8.3 million vehicles transported by B.C. ferries.

How many businesses are there in the transportation sector?

- *In 2003, there were 15,870 registered businesses in the transportation & storage sector*
  - *Of those, 54% had no employees*
  - *Another 42% had between 1 and 19 employees*
- This is a very diverse sector,
  - there is a large of range of operations, from very large operators (e.g. Air Canada, Vancouver Port Authority), to very small operators (e.g. independent taxi drivers, couriers, small warehousing operations)

How much economic activity does the transportation sector generate?

British Columbia Transportation GDP ($1997 dollars)

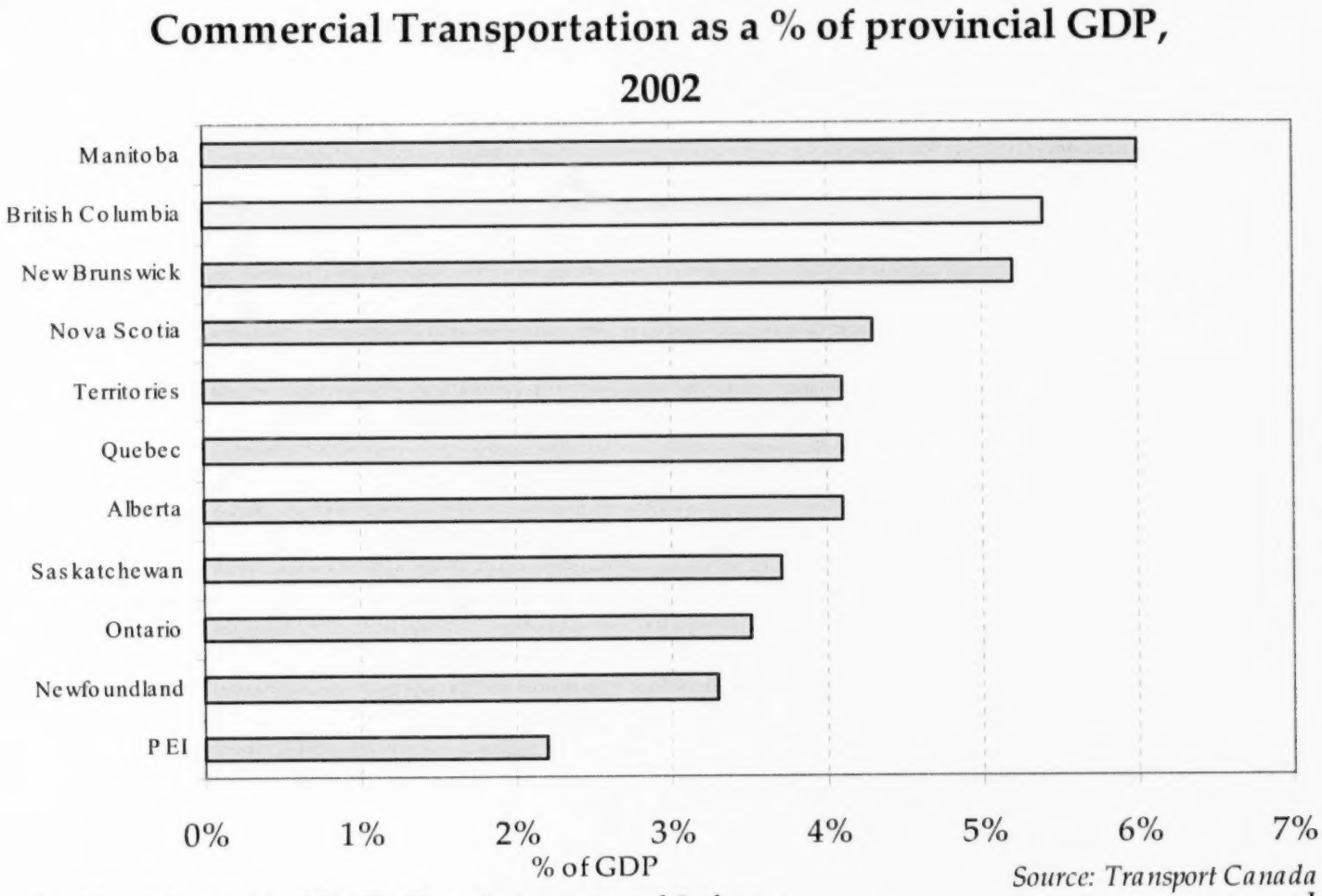


Source: BC Stats, Statistics Canada Provincial Economic Accounts

Prepared by Ministry of Skills Development and Labour

July 2004

What proportion of the economy does this represent?

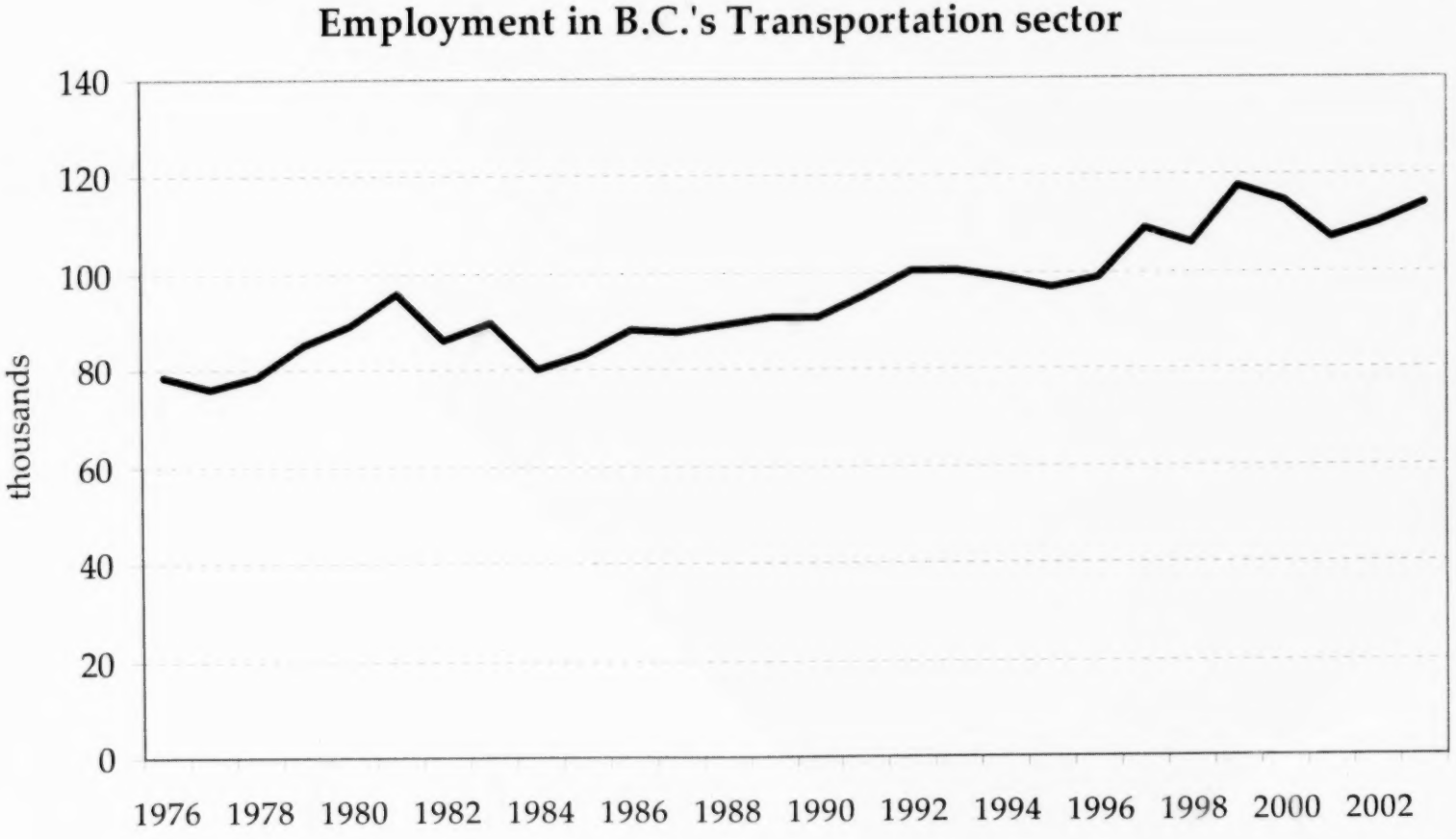


Source: Transport Canada

Prepared by Ministry of Skills Development and Labour

July 2004

How many people are employed in B.C.'s transportation sector?

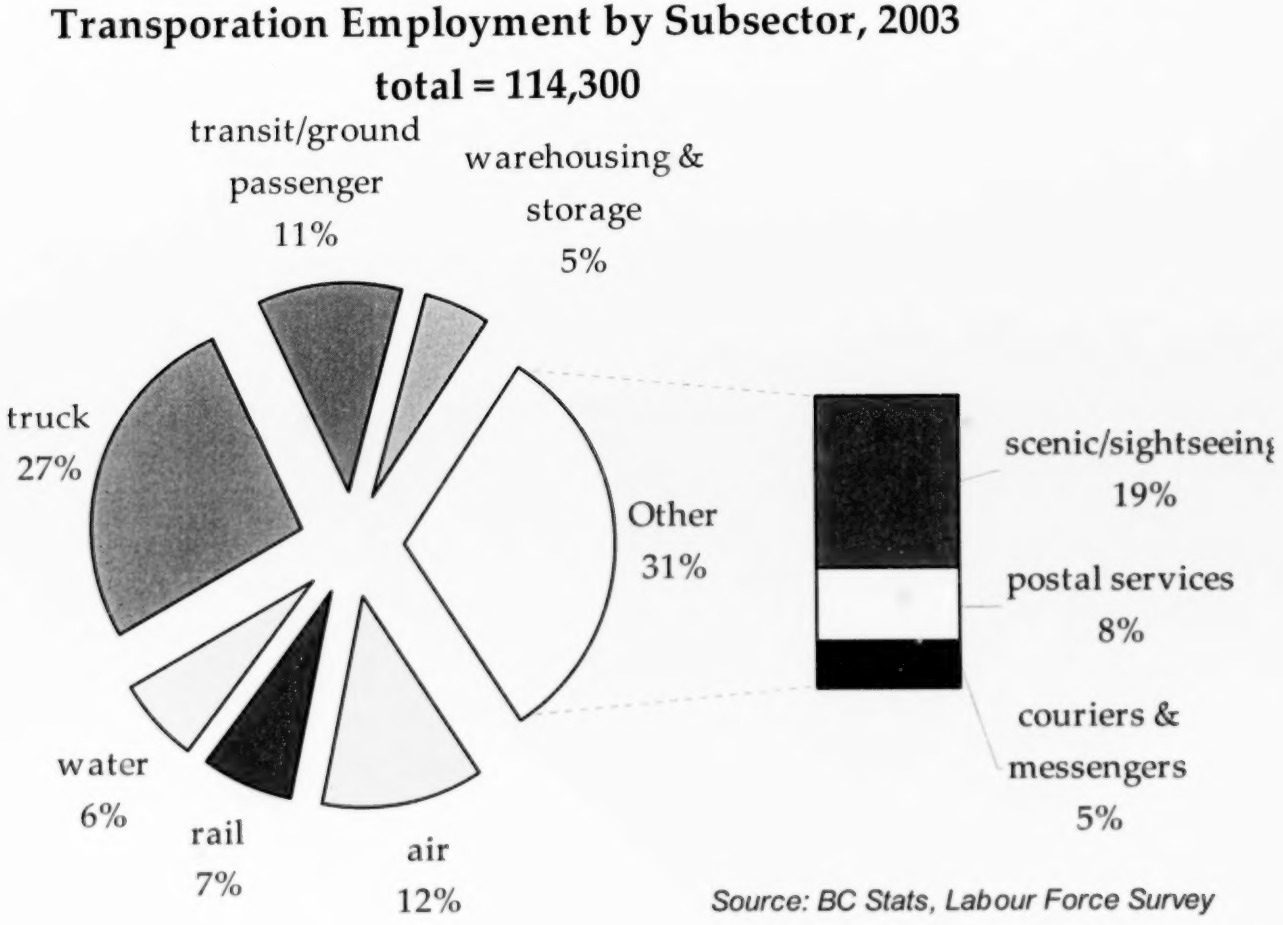


Source: Labour Force Survey

Prepared by Ministry of Skills Development and Labour

July 2004

What range of activities do transportation workers do?



Current climate in the transportation sector

- Beginning to see traffic congestion in more populated centres: Lower Mainland, Okanagan Valley, Sea-to-Sky Highway
- Security and access concerns for truckers who are moving goods across the US border.
- Long-term benefits of investing in transportation not always factored in to land use decisions.
- Migration out of rural areas diminishes the tax base
- Physical challenges of moving people and commodities across B.C.'s landscape

Emerging opportunities & challenges

- Deteriorating infrastructure, and need to access capital investment for upgrading.
- Need to create infrastructure while supporting national and provincial climate change commitments.
- Increasing complexity of transportation operations.
- Competing priorities for urban land-use.
- B.C.'s population is growing, particularly in urban areas – commuter transportation pressures